



EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In United States History Studies Since 1877, which is the second part of a two-year study that begins in Grade 8, students study the history of the United States from 1877 to the present. The course content is based on the founding documents of the U.S. government, which provide a framework for its heritage. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, and social events and issues related to industrialization and urbanization, major wars, domestic and foreign policies, and reform movements, including civil rights. Students examine the impact of geographic factors on major events and eras and analyze their causes and effects. Students examine the impact of constitutional issues on American society, evaluate the dynamic relationship of the three branches of the federal government, and analyze efforts to expand the democratic process. Students describe the relationship between the arts and popular culture and the times during which they were created. Students analyze the impact of technological innovations on American life. Students use critical-thinking skills and a variety of primary and secondary source material to explain and apply different methods that historians use to understand and interpret the past, including multiple points of view and historical context.

U.S. History students are required to pass the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) End-of-Course (EOC) U.S. History exam to meet part of the graduation requirements.

1st Six Weeks Overview

Students will be engaged in course work over the following units of study:

- **Unit 1: Foundations: Background to American History**

This unit includes a review of three documents that have greatly influenced the development of our nation—the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Students will also learn about key individuals that participated in the Revolution, and the values Americans forged in these years.

- **Unit 2: American Society in Transition**

This unit examines how industrialization affected American society in the late nineteenth century. People migrated from countryside to city, and people from other countries came to the United States. Technological change made it possible to transform the physical geography of the Great Plains. Native Americans were forced onto Reservations, the buffalo were killed and new settlers built ranches and farms.

- Unit 3: Industrialization and the Gilded Age

This unit examines industrialization and the Gilded Age. New inventions and organizing skills of America's greatest entrepreneurs vastly increased the country's industrial capacity. The spread of railroad lines and telegraph wires helped lead to the emergence of a national market.

- Unit 4: The Progressive Era

This unit examines how Americans adopted important reforms to meet new problems posed by industrialization and urbanization. Progressive reformers sought to remedy the social problems caused by industrialization. Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson introduced Progressive reforms at the national level.

Celebrate Freedom will take place during the first six weeks and the students will be exposed to the intent, meaning and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, in their historical contexts.

Student Assessment

Throughout the 1st Six Weeks, student knowledge and understanding will be assessed in a variety of ways, such as:

- Interacting with Academic Vocabulary
- Thinking Maps and Graphic Organizers
- Student Collaborative Learning
- Quick Writes
- Think/Pair/Share
- Use of Stems for Writing
- Peer Tutoring
- Identify Bias in History (Interpretation)
- Connection to Future Historical Events and Present Situations
- Skills Practice (Maps, Charts, Graphs)
- Collaborative Small and Large Group Discussions (Socratic Seminars)
- Document Analysis of Primary and Secondary Sources (Historiography)
- Critical Listening and Note Taking/Summarizing (Cornell Notes)
- Critical Questioning
- Mental Mapping – geographical awareness
- Formative and Summative Assessments (including analysis of released STAAR questions)

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding your student. We look forward to working with you and your child to ensure academic success.

Respectfully,

U.S. History Teachers